



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (*NOAA*)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - October 1, 2003

- ***In the West***, dry, warm weather persists as winter wheat planting continues. Rainfall is needed to aid winter wheat establishment in the **Northwest**, and ease long-term dryness elsewhere in the region.
- ***On the Plains***, cold weather and limited soil moisture continue to slow winter wheat emergence throughout the **central and northern High Plains**, where widespread frost and freezing temperatures were reported this morning. In the **southern Plains**, dry conditions favor summer crop maturation and harvesting.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, freezing temperatures and frosts were observed throughout the **upper Midwest** for the third consecutive morning. Light snow was falling along the northern Great Lakes. The cold weather had no adverse effect on maturing corn and soybeans in these areas.
- ***In the South***, heavy showers were causing flooding along west-central Florida, while mild, dry weather elsewhere continues to promote summer crop maturation and harvesting.

Outlook: From the ***Plains to the East Coast***, below-normal temperatures will continue. On Wednesday night, a widespread freeze is likely across much of the ***Midwest and Corn Belt***. Meanwhile, on Thursday night, light freezes and patchy frost are expected in the ***Appalachians and Mid-Atlantic***. Rain and snow showers will accompany the chilly airmass across the ***Great Lakes***. Elsewhere across ***central and southern Florida***, heavy rain has diminished but occasional showers will continue. Showers are possible in the ***Rockies***. Otherwise, dry weather will persist in the ***West***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 6-10 features above-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest, southern high Plains, and along the East Coast and Gulf Coast***. Drier-than-normal conditions are anticipated for the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest***. Below-normal temperatures are forecast to persist from the ***Mississippi Valley to the East Coast***, while above-normal temperatures are expected in the ***northern Rockies and Great Basin***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>